

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 9, 2022

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance: Julia Dennis
Melissa Gibbons
Jaymee Miller
Gina Nappi
Timothy Oakes
Adam Salina - Absent
Kari Sassu, Ph.D.
Tracy Sisti - Absent
Matthew Tencza – Arrived at 6:43 p.m.
Student Representatives: Lindsey Leary
Samantha Negrao

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Co-Directors of Curriculum Laurie Gjerpen and Kara Watson; Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno; Finance Director Ashley Dorsey; Director of Human Resources Denise Parsons; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian; Supervisor of Special Education – Secondary Cindy Martin; Principal of Berlin High School Eileen Eustis; Principal of McGee Middle School Salvatore Urso; Principal of Griswold School David Kitzman; Principal of Willard School Megan Sirois; and Principal of Hubbard School Alfred Souza.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Board of Education (“the Board”) meeting room at 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. STUDENT PRESENTATION – RICHARD D. HUBBARD SCHOOL

Hubbard School kindergarten staff and students shared their Earth Day learning experiences and opportunities they have been working on. These include learning about pollution, keeping the earth clean, and planting grass. Students have been observing the negative effects of pollution on grass for the last two weeks. Kindergartners also experienced a field trip to a farm where education prioritized plants and the plant life cycle. They also had experiences with planting and learning what plants need through integrated Library and Technology instruction with Mrs. Hannon. Staff presenters this evening were Mrs. Michelle Hannon, Mrs. Madison Poudrier and Mrs. Katie Wasilewski. Student presenters this evening were Nicholas Dinnie, Keller Liedke, Morgan Pepe and Viola Waldron.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION – CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS 2022

McGee Art Teacher David Holland, Superintendent Benigni and Building Principals recognized the following students:

Superintendent’s Choice Award: Anthony Dresko – *Jordan 11*

Curriculum Director’s Choice Awards: (Gjerpen) – Michelle Liu – *Pavilion of Listening to Billows*

(Watson) – Kaylin Stein – *Tigers in Balance*

BHS Principal’s Choice Awards: 2D – Rose Fatoula Fas – *Watercolor Landscape*

3D – Marc Semana – *Moonlight*

McGee Principal's Choice Award – Olivia Barbagallo – *Aurora Reindeer*
Griswold Principal's Choice Award – Caroline Martin – *Rainbow Dash*
Hubbard Principal's Choice Award – Anthony Dinnie – *Ocean Seas*
Willard Principal's Choice Award – Ben Lopofsky – *The Amazing Flower*

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

A. Report of Student Representatives

Miss Leary reported Berlin High School will host Awards Night on Monday, May 23, 2022; the AP Art Exhibition Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022; Berlin High School graduate Allyse Madey (2010), School Resource Officer Mark DePinto and the Berlin High School Counseling Department will present a presentation for parents entitled, Substance Prevention What You Need to Know, on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, followed by a student presentation on Thursday, May 19, 2022; Scholarship Night will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022; semester 2 Capstone Day is Monday, June 2, 2022, followed by the Senior Capstone Exhibition at 6:00 p.m.; and the Class of 2022 graduation will be held on Friday, June 20, 2022, at Sage Park.

Miss Negrao reported Berlin High School held a job fair for students on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, wherein students were able to attend during their lunch wave and have an opportunity to meet with different businesses and companies; this past week was Staff Appreciation Week, and the Future Teachers Club and Upbeat students held a potluck for staff; the spring choral concert will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022; the Music Department Jazz with Pizzazz will be held on Friday, June 3, 2022; and the Berlin High School baseball team will play against Plainville on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford.

B. Committee Reports

Dr. Sassu reported the Curriculum Committee met prior to tonight's meeting and reviewed three textbooks, which appear later in the agenda for adoption.

Mr. Oakes reported the Finance & Operations Committee met this morning and discussed the current year budget, end-of-year purchasing, copier contract, multi-factor authentication and the head custodian interviews and transfer.

Mr. Oakes reported the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision met on Friday, May 6, 2022, and discussed policy review/revision, which appears later in the agenda for a first reading.

Ms. Dennis reported the Community Engagement Committee met on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, and discussed various strategies to communicate and engage the community. The Committee also discussed the subcommittee selection for the request to name the Berlin High School basketball court, which will be shared later in the meeting

C. CREC Report

There was not report this evening.

D. Correspondence to the Board

Superintendent Benigni shared a thank you note received from Laura Foss-Mariol.

V. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Nothing to report.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of April 25, 2022
- B. Monthly Budget Report – Period ending April 30, 2022
- C. Facilities Related Update
- D. Overnight Field Trip Request – BHS Upbeat Weekend – May 13-15, 2022

Berlin High School Principal Eileen Eustis and Upbeat Director Sheel Patel requested permission for approximately 80-100 students to travel to YMCA Camp Woodstock, in Woodstock, CT, on May 13-15, 2022, to attend the May Upbeat Weekend. The purpose of the trip is to provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills such as team building, communication, and stepping outside of their comfort zones. They will also build relationships with their peers and school staff members, and plan and facilitate a service project for a group in need in their community.

Moved by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Dr. Sassu, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Summer Programs

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian and Co-Directors of Curriculum Laurie Gjerpen and Kara Watson updated the Board regarding summer programs. Ms. Holian reported, to date, there are approximately 156 students recommended for summer programs. There will be two sessions: a five week program that runs from June 26 to July 29 for students with most intense needs; and a four week program that runs from July 5 to July 28 for preschool through Grade 12 students. Currently, there are twenty teachers; thirty-nine paraprofessionals; one occupational therapist; three speech and language pathologists; one physical therapist; one psychologist; and one teacher for movement at the elementary level.

In addition to the regular extended school year (ESY), the mathematics department will be offering a summer Math Academy to students entering Grades 7 -10, which will run for one week, for three mornings, to help students have a successful transition into the next school year. In addition, the mathematics department will offer a SAT math preparation course for incoming juniors, which will run one week, for three mornings.

In addition to the regular extended school year (ESY), Ms. Gjerpen stated the district will run a Summer Academy for rising first, second, and third grade students. Currently, there are approximately 100 students who will participate in this program. This program will run for four weeks, three days a week, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Students are selected based on literacy and math data and recommendations from interventionists as well as classroom teachers. Students also identified as needing additional socialization and/or language opportunities are invited to participate in Camp Thundermoon for the month of July.

B. Setting of the 2022-2023 Budget

The Town Council approved the level of funding for the Board of Education's 2022-2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$49,082,596, and it passed at referendum on April 26, 2022. Action is needed to adopt the final budget as set by the Town Council and passed at referendum.

Moved by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Mr. Tencza, that the Board of Education adopt an Operating Budget for 2022-2023, in the amount of \$49,082,596, as set by the Town Council and passed at referendum on April 26, 2022.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis

C. Textbook Adoptions

Co-Directors of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Gjerpen and Kara Watson presented the following textbooks, recommended for adoption, to the members of the Board of Education:

Emergency Medical Responder: Your First Response in Emergency Care includes Navigate Premier Access, by American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and published by Jones & Bartlett Learning. This is a new textbook to be used in the Emergency Medical Services course in Grades 10-12.

Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, by International Association of Fire Chiefs/National Fire Protection Association and published by Jones & Bartlett Learning. This replacement textbook will be used in the Introduction to Fire Service course in Grades 11 and 12.

Technical Drawing 101 with AutoCAD, by Douglas Smith, Antonio Ramirez, and Ashleigh Congdon-Fuller and published by SDC Publications. This is a new textbook to be used in the CCP CAD Computer Aided Design course in Grades 10-12.

The textbooks have been reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Textbook Selection Committee. The Curriculum Committee reviewed the recommendations at its meeting on May 9, 2022. The recommended textbooks are available for viewing by contacting Laurie Gjerpen or Kara Watson, and the textbook recommendation forms are posted in Schoology.

Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Ms. Miller, to adopt the textbooks, *Emergency Medical Responder: Your First Response in Emergency Care includes Navigate Premier Access*, by American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and published by Jones & Bartlett Learning; *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response*, by International Association of Fire Chiefs/National Fire Protection Association and published by Jones & Bartlett Learning; and *Technical Drawing 101 with AutoCAD*, by Douglas Smith, Antonio Ramirez, and Ashleigh Congdon-Fuller and published by SDC Publications.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis

- D. Policy Review/Revision – Second Reading/Adoption
1. Policy 4112.51 – Employment and Student Teacher Checks
 2. Policy 4115.3 – Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches
 3. Policy 4118.114 – Employees and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 4. Policy 4118.5 – Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications
 5. Policy 5131.81 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
 6. Policy 5131.83 – Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety
 7. Policy 5141.4 – Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure
 8. Policy 6146.22 – IDEA – Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities
 9. Policy 6153 – Field Trips
 10. Bylaw 9020 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
 11. Bylaw 9035 – Meeting Conduct
 12. New Bylaw 9100 – Use of Social Media by Board Members

Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, has recommended revisions to the above policies and bylaws, and has recommended a new bylaw, as noted on the summary sheet posted in Schoology. The Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision met on April 25, 2022 to review the recommendations. A first reading took place at the April 25, 2022 Board meeting.

Moved by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Miller, that the Board adopt the revised policies and bylaws listed above, and new Bylaw 9100, as presented.

With regard to Bylaw 9035 – Meeting Conduct, for clarification, Mr. Oakes noted on Page 6, Public Address, A.(1), the time allotted to each speaker has increased from two (2) minutes to three (3) minutes, and the time allotted per topic has increased from nine (9) minutes to fifteen (15) minutes.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis

- E. Policy Review/Revision – First Reading
 - 1. Policy 5131.911 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention
 - 2. New Policy 6141.9 – Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum

Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, has recommended revisions to one policy and has recommended a new policy as noted on the summary sheet posted in Schoology. The Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision met on May 6, 2022 to review the recommended revisions and the new policy. Since this is a first reading, no action is required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the June 13, 2022 Board meeting.

- F. Update – Subcommittee Selection to Review Request to Name BHS Basketball Court

Board President Julia Dennis provided an update on the selection of a subcommittee to review the request to name the Berlin High School basketball court in honor of Coach Mike Veneziano. Ms. Dennis stated, after much consultation, in addition to herself, the following people will be asked to serve on the subcommittee: Superintendent Benigni; Board member Adam Salina; Principal of Berlin High School Eileen Eustis; Physical Education, Health and Wellness Teacher Jan Zagorski; Bob Sisti; Mark Holmes; and Debbie Beatman. Ms. Dennis stated these individuals fulfill the requirement of the policy to form the subcommittee and if any Board member has questions or if anyone is interested in serving on the subcommittee to reach out to her.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Miller, seconded by Dr. Sassu, to adjourn.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis**

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sassu, Ph.D., Berlin Board of Education